

Message Text

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SUBJ: LABOR LEADER EXCHANGES: TRADE UNION AMERICAN SPECIALISTS

FOLLOWING TELEX RECEIVED FROM MELBOURNE 01 NOV 1976.

PASSED FOR YOUR ACTION/INFO

QTE FOR FINDLAY FROM PURCELL

SUBJ: LABOR LEADER EXCHANGES: TRADE UNION AMERICAN
SPECIALISTS

REF: A-230 OF JAN 15, 1976, MELBOURNE'S 1340 OF JULY 20, 1976

1. DURING PAST FOUR MONTHS LABOR OFFICER AND OTHERS HAVE DISCUSSED SUBJECT OF LABOR LEADER EXCHANGES WITH WIDE RANGE OF PEOPLE INCLUDING TRADE UNION LEADERS, EMPLOYERS, INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS OFFICERS, ACADEMICS, POLITICIANS, FEDERAL AND STATE LABOR MINISTRY OFFICIALS AND MEMBERS OF FEDERAL AND STATE ARBITRATION COMMISSIONS. FOR VARIETY OF REASONS, MOST RESPONDENTS HAVE WELCOMED IDEA OF INVITING MORE U.S. LABOR LEADERS TO VISIT AUSTRALIA---IN PARTICULAR PEOPLE WITH EXPERIENCE IN AMERICAN--STYLE FACE-TO-FACE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING.

2. REASONS GIVEN HAVE INCLUDED:

(A) INDUSTRIAL UNREST RANKS HIGH (PERHAPS FIRST) ON LIST OF AUSTRALIA'S MORE DIFFICULT PROBLEMS AND COUNTRY'S "COMPULSORY" ARBITRATION SYSTEM HAS BEEN FAILING TO DEAL EFFECTIVELY WITH SOME OF THEM.

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KB) WHILE FEW ADVOCATE REPLACING "COMPULSORY" ARBITRATION WITH ANOTHER SYSTEM MANY BELIEVE IT WOULD BE IRRESPONSIBLE NOT TO TRY TO LEARN FROM WHAT OTHERS HAVE DONE. WITH THIS IN MIND SIGNIFICANT NUMBERS OF AUSTRALIAN TRADE UNIONISTS AND OTHERS HAVE BEEN VISITING EUROPE AND ASIA (INCLUDING SOME COMMUNIST COUNTRIES) AND U.S. FOR PURPOSE OF TAKING FIRST-HAND LOOKS AT WORKER PARTICIPATION, COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AND VARIOUS OTHER SYSTEMS. ACCORDING TO SOME RESPONDENTS IF TEAM OF U.S. LABOR SPECIALISTS WERE TO SPEND REASONABLE AMOUNT OF TIME IN VENUES PROVIDED BY INTERESTED TRADE UNIONS, EMPLOYER ORGANISATIONS, INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS SOCIETIES AND UNIVERSITIES IT WOULD HAVE OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS SIGNIFICANT NUMBERS OF INTERESTED AUSTRALIANS UNABLE TO TRAVEL ABROAD IN AREA OF GREAT CURRENT INTEREST AND CONCERN.

3. RECOMMENDATION: THAT DEPARTMENT LOOK INTO POSSIBILITY OF PUTTING TOGETHER SMALL TEAM OF PEOPLE DRAWN FROM BOTH SIDES OF BARGAINING TABLE WHICH WOULD BE ABLE TO GIVE 3-6 WEEKS TO DISCUSSING AMERICAN-STYLE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING WITH WIDE RANGE OF INTERESTED AUSTRALIANS IN ALL PARTS OF COUNTRY. MEMBERS OF TEAM SHOULD BE ARTICULATE AND EXPERIENCED AND PREPARED IN VIEW OF EXTENT AND LEVELS OF INTEREST TO CONDUCE WORKSHOPS, PARTICIPATE IN SEMINARS AND ADDRESS LARGE GROUPS OF PEOPLE. WE SEEK ADVANTAGE IN INCLUDING AS MEMBER OF TEAM QUALIFIED REPRESENTATIVE OF U.S. ACADEMIC COMMUNITY.

4. JUSTIFICATION: RECOMMENDATION HAS VIRTUE NOT ONLY ON BEING FULLY CONSISTENT WITH OBJECTIVES LISTED IN ATTACHMENT AND AND B OF A-230, BUT IN BEING RESPONSIVE TO WIDELY-BASED HOST COUNTRY VIEWS ABOUT WHAT WOULD BE USEFUL TO AUSTRALIA, AS WELL AS CONSISTENT WITH POST CPM PRIORITIES. UNQTE.
HARGROVE

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